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THOMAS JEFFERSON and his
unknown brother RANDOLPH

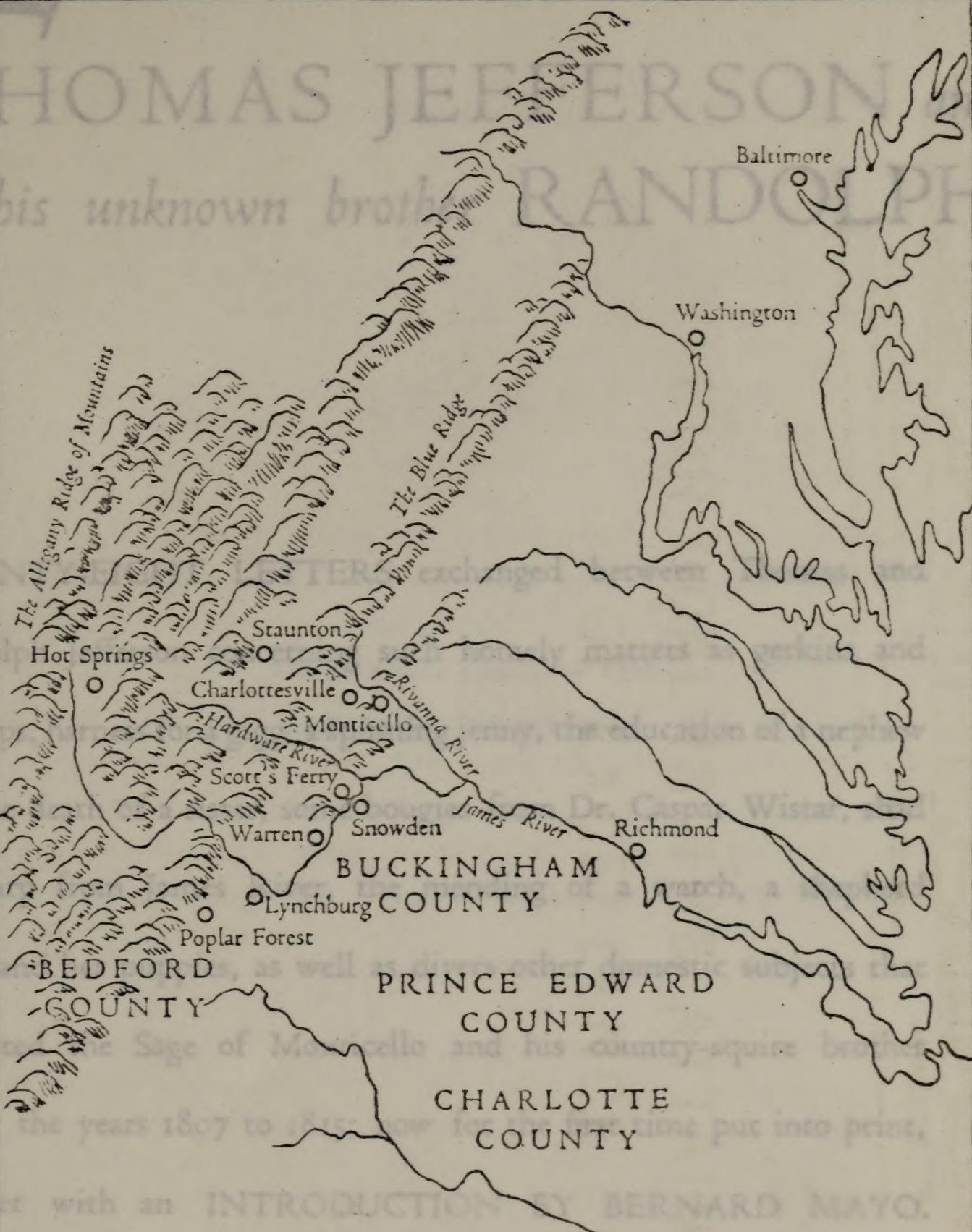
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A Map

Showing places mentioned in the letters,
after Thomas Jefferson's map of 1756
made for his Notes on Virginia.

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A Map

Showing places mentioned in the letters,
after Thomas Jefferson's map of 1786
made for his Notes on Virginia.

THE TRACY W. McGREGOR LIBRARY

THOMAS JEFFERSON and his unknown brother RANDOLPH

TWENTY-EIGHT LETTERS exchanged between Thomas and Randolph Jefferson concerning such homely matters as gerkins and parsneps, harness for a gigg, a spinning jenny, the education of a nephew and the death of a sister, some bougies from Dr. Caspar Wistar, shad and carp from James River, the mending of a watch, a shepherd bitch and her puppies, as well as divers other domestic subjects that interested the Sage of Monticello and his country-squire brother during the years 1807 to 1815; now for the first time put into print, together with an INTRODUCTION BY BERNARD MAYO.

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THE SIGHTS AND SCENES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

BY JAMES M. HARRIS, OF NEW YORK.

WITH A HISTORY OF THE CITY, AND A GUIDE TO THE POINTS OF INTEREST.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FORTY-FIVE COLORED PLATES.

THE EDITION FOR EXPORTATION.

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR BY J. M. HARRIS.

1850. 12 MO. 500 PAGES. 12 COLORED PLATES.

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THE AUTHOR'S EDITION.

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Jefferson Letters in Facsimile

This is the second of a series of publications designed to make better known to students of history the source materials in the Tracy W. McGregor Library. The first volume, published early in 1941, concerned the attempt of Virginia's last colonial governor, Lord Dunmore, to incite a servile rebellion, and contained a facsimile of a remarkable broadside issued in November, 1775. For the second volume the curator and the advisory committee have turned to the Library's manuscript holdings. At their request, Professor Mayo has edited these twenty-eight letters selected from the recently acquired Carr-Cary Papers, which contain many manuscripts from the pen of the University of Virginia's Founder.

Jefferson's Unknown Brother

Randolph Jefferson was the only brother of Thomas Jefferson, and that fact alone gives him significance. Few biographers of Jefferson have even mentioned his existence. No account of him, however brief, has ever been attempted, and no letters of his have before been published. The correspondence from the Carr-Cary Papers here made available throws considerable light upon this unknown brother of Thomas Jefferson. It comprises all the letters known to have been exchanged between the two men during the years 1807 to 1815, and for these years gives a fairly complete picture of the relations which existed between Thomas and his brother and neighbor, whose plantation of Snowden was but twenty miles from Monticello. The letters treat of family and agricultural matters, and in some degree enlarge one's knowledge of Jefferson's domestic life. But they are primarily interesting because they reveal Thomas Jefferson's affection, patient kindness, and desire to help a brother strikingly his inferior.

Randolph, born at Shadwell on October 1, 1755, was twelve years younger than Thomas. With his twin sister, Anna Scott, he was the last of the ten children (including two sons who had died in infancy) of Peter Jefferson and his wife, Jane Randolph. He was two years old, and Thomas was fourteen, when his father died in 1757. By the terms of Peter Jefferson's will Thomas was to have his choice of either the estates on the Fluvanna River (the south fork of the James) or the estates on the Rivanna River, and Randolph was to have the estates not chosen by Thomas. The estates on the Fluvanna, really the James River proper, fell to Randolph. These were extensive and profitable. There was the Fine Creek property and lands adjacent along the James just above Richmond, some land in Lunenburg County, Angola, Guinea, and Wingo's in Cumberland County, and four acres with the tavern and outbuildings at the ferry landing on the south side of the James opposite Scott's Ferry, now Scottsville. Most important of all was the Snowden estate of 1,327 fertile acres in Buckingham County, adjacent to the ferry-landing tract, with its plantation house perched high on a bluff overlooking the great bend in the James River.

*today known
as James River*

The younger son was well provided for by his father, and his education was not neglected by John Harvie, the principal executor of Peter Jefferson's estate. While Thomas was being boarded and schooled

by the Reverend James Maury, the younger children were being instructed by a Mr. Benjamin Snead. In the years 1764 and 1765 Mr. Snead held school a few miles southeast of Shadwell at the Buck Island plantation of Charles Lewis, whose wife was a sister of Mrs. Peter Jefferson. During these years Harvie's account books show payments to Lewis for Master Randolph's boarding, and to Snead for his schooling. Meanwhile Thomas went on to William and Mary College, studied law under George Wythe, and began the practice of law in 1767. In that year John Harvie died. Thenceforth Thomas with brotherly affection looked after Randolph's interests. When his brother was sixteen Thomas sent him on to William and Mary, where he was in residence from October of 1771 until early in 1773.

One of Randolph's teachers at William and Mary, who also seems to have been his special tutor, was the Reverend Thomas Gwatkin, professor of natural philosophy and mathematics, a young man not long out of Jesus College, Oxford. An able teacher, Gwatkin in 1774 became the tutor of Lord Fincastle, eldest son of the Earl of Dunmore. Doubtless he found teaching Governor Dunmore's son much pleasanter, and more rewarding, than teaching the brother of Thomas Jefferson, then a radical member of the House of Burgesses from Albemarle. When Jefferson and others had the House appoint June 1, 1774, as a day of fasting out of sympathy for the patriots of Boston, Mr. Gwatkin begged off from preaching the Fast Day Sermon in Williamsburg because of "a disorder of the Breast." A year later his Loyalist opinions forced his return to England. Of Randolph's scholastic record under Mr. Gwatkin and his colleagues at William and Mary nothing is known. His letters, however, furnish strong evidence that he profited very little from educational opportunities not dissimilar to those afforded his studious and brilliant older brother.

Nothing is known of his social life in the gay little Virginia capital, where Thomas as a student had been the dinner companion of Dr. William Small, George Wythe, and Francis Fauquier, and had held his own at Governor Fauquier's parties noted for their Attic wit and chamber music. An item in Jefferson's account book of May 3, 1774, reveals that Randolph took violin lessons from Francis Alberti, and suggests that in some degree he shared his brother's passion for music. This is but one of many brief financial items in Jefferson's account books concerning Randolph, his education, his lands, the sale of his tobacco crops, and varied business transactions, all of which indicate the deep interest Thomas took in his brother's affairs both before and after Randolph came of age in 1776.

During the Revolution Randolph saw some service, presumably as a private, in General Thomas Nelson's corps of Virginia Light Dragoons. It is possible that he served also under Charles Lewis of Buck Island, who for a time was colonel of the 14th Virginia Regiment. With Colonel Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and other determined patriots of Albemarle County, he subscribed to the special Oath of Allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia (the so-called "Albemarle Declaration of Independence"), of April 21, 1779. During the British invasion of 1781, his plantation of Snowden furnished provisions for the Virginia troops, pasturage for cavalry horses, and Negro laborers who helped remove from Scott's Ferry military stores which were an objective of Colonel Banastre Tarleton. When the victory at Yorktown that fall brought an end to military alarms and excursions, Randolph settled down at Snowden on the James as a country squire whose life, in sharp contrast to that of his distinguished brother, was narrowly circumscribed physically and intellectually.

He was twice married. On July 30, 1780, he married Anne Jefferson Lewis, the daughter of Colonel Charles Lewis of Buck Island. She was his first cousin, and the sister of Charles Lilburne Lewis, who in 1769 had married Randolph's sister Lucy. The Lewis and Jefferson families became even more closely connected later on when Thomas, the son of Randolph, married Mary Randolph, the daughter of Lucy Jefferson Lewis. By his first wife, who died sometime before 1808, Randolph had five sons: Thomas (named for his brother), Robert Lewis, Field, Isham Randolph, and James Lilburne; and a daughter, Anna Scott (named for his twin sister). His second wife was Mitchie B. Pryor, daughter of David Pryor of Buckingham County. He married her in 1808 or 1809, and by her had one son, John Jefferson. It was Randolph's children, rather than those of Thomas, who carried on the Jefferson family name. None of them ever attained prominence, although a grandson, Peter Field (the son of Randolph's son Thomas), as a country merchant made what the little town of Scottsville considered a large fortune.

While Thomas Jefferson's brother took no part in politics, he was in 1794 commissioned a captain of militia in Buckingham County. Captain Jefferson, as he was commonly called, was a substantial planter. In the year 1782, in Buckingham alone, he was taxed for 30 slaves, 6 horses, 42 cattle, and 2,000 acres of land. In 1815, the year of his death, he still possessed in Buckingham 22 slaves, 6 horses, 25 cattle, and 1,827 acres of land. However, as intimated in the letters which follow, the total amount of land which he had received from his father had considerably diminished by 1815. For

Well, ^{now's} Thomas ^{is} ~~now~~

easy-going Randolph was a poor manager. From boyhood he was often in debt, and his second wife was an extravagant and determined woman who ran up large bills against him with the merchants of Warren and Scott's Ferry, across the James from Snowden. His last years were distressed, also, by friction between his second wife and his sons. The latter were highly incensed when their stepmother succeeded in having Randolph make a new will, which was greatly in her favor and to their detriment. In the opinion of Joseph C. Cabell, the second Mrs. Randolph Jefferson was "a Jade of genuine bottom."

Immediately following Randolph's death, on August 7, 1815, at the age of sixty, his sons attempted to break the new will. In contesting it (unsuccessfully, it appears) they obtained a deposition from their uncle at Monticello, dated September 15, 1815. In it Jefferson stated that his brother Randolph, throughout his life, had always been in the habit of consulting him "in all cases of importance respecting his interests." There had been one exception: he had not consulted him when he proposed marrying Mitchie B. Pryor. Jefferson went on to state, with particular reference to Randolph's widow but in words that applied generally, that his brother had never been a man skilled in the judicious management of his affairs, "and that in all the occasions of life a diffidence in his own opinions, an extreme facility and kindness of temper, and an easy pliancy to the wishes and urgency of others, made him very susceptible of influence from those who had any views upon him."

The letters from the Carr-Cary Papers which are here printed reveal the striking intellectual disparity between the Sage of Monticello and the Squire of Snowden. From an early day Thomas of course was well aware of Randolph's limitations, as is indicated by the only letter written by him to his brother hitherto published (in Sarah N. Randolph's *Domestic Life of Thomas Jefferson*), dated January 11, 1789. From a Paris then on the eve of the French Revolution, Thomas wrote: "The occurrences of this part of the globe are of a nature to interest you so little that I have never made them the subject of a letter to you. . . . I have not the less continued to entertain for you the same sincere affection, the same wishes for your health and that of your family, and almost an envy of your quiet and retirement." The letters which follow are evidence not only that the interests, tastes, grammar and spelling of Thomas Jefferson's only brother were decidedly those of an earth-bound farmer but that Thomas Jefferson's relations with his brother were ever characterized by an affectionate solicitude.

SOURCES ON RANDOLPH JEFFERSON

Peter Jefferson's children are listed in Henry S. Randall, *The Life of Thomas Jefferson* (3 vols., New York, 1858), I, 17; and his will is in the Albemarle County Courthouse, Will Book 2, pp. 32-35. Information on his Fluvanna estates has been kindly furnished by Mr. Edgar C. Hickisch. A survey of Snowden made July 18, 1799, is in Surveyor's Platt Book, 1762-1814, Buckingham County Courthouse; the court records of that county were destroyed by fire in 1869. There are photostatic copies at the University of Virginia of John Harvie's account books of 1757-1765 (original at the Huntington Library) and of 1759-1761 (original at the Massachusetts Historical Society); and of Jefferson's account books, the most pertinent of which are those for 1771-1772, 1774, 1776-1778 (originals at the Massachusetts Historical Society), and 1773 (original at the Library of Congress). A sketch of Rev. Thomas Gwatin by E. Alfred Jones is in the *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, XXVI (Jan., 1918), 221-231; and he is mentioned in the *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1773-1776*, edited by John Pendleton Kennedy (Richmond, 1905), pp. 124, 126. Randolph Jefferson is listed, without rank, in John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution* (Richmond, 1938), p. 415; and as a signer of the "Albemarle Declaration of Independence" in Rev. Edgar Woods, *Albemarle County* (Charlottesville, 1901), p. 367. This so-called Declaration of Independence was really an Oath of Allegiance to the new government. The text of the oath and a list of subscribers to it, a fuller list than that given by Woods, are in the manuscript Diary of Dr. George Gilmer, in the Virginia Historical Society. Randolph's claims for provisions, etc., furnished during the Revolution, and his militia commission of May 13, 1794, as well as the Buckingham Land and Personal Property tax books for 1782 and 1815, are in the Virginia State Library. Genealogical information, incomplete and sometimes conflicting, is given in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, VII (Jan., 1900), 325-326, XXIX (Oct., 1921), 499-500, and XXXVI (Jan., 1928), 74; Woods, *Albemarle County*, pp. 237-238; and Merrow Egerton Sorley, *Lewis of Warner Hall: The History of a Family* (Columbia, Mo., 1935), pp. 345-350. Thomas Jefferson's deposition of September 15, 1815, and the draft of a will made by Randolph Jefferson on May 27, 1808 (which lists his five sons by his first wife, but does not mention his daughter, Anna Scott), are in the Carr-Cary Papers. Joseph C. Cabell's characterization of the second Mrs. Randolph Jefferson is in a letter to General John H. Cocke of Breino, dated Sept. 13, 1815, in the Cabell Manuscripts on deposit at the University of Virginia.

NOTES

Letter 1. James Dinsmore, an expert carpenter and builder, worked at Monticello from 1798 to 1808.

Letter 1. Thomas Mann Randolph was the husband of Jefferson's daughter, Martha.

Letter 2. Poplar Forest was Jefferson's estate in Bedford County, not far from Lynchburg.

Letter 2. Mrs. Hastings Marks was Randolph's twin sister, Anna Scott Jefferson.

Letter 3. Squire was one of Randolph Jefferson's slaves.

Letter 5. Jerry, one of Thomas Jefferson's slaves, was often employed to wagon goods between Monticello and Poplar Forest.

Letter 7. Mrs. Dabney Carr was Jefferson's sister, Martha, and the widow of one of his dearest friends.

Letter 8. Mr. Pryor was probably Zachariah Pryor, a brother of Mrs. Randolph Jefferson.

Letter 9. Dr. Caspar Wistar was an eminent Philadelphia physician.

Letter 9. Hastings Marks was the husband of Anna Scott Jefferson.

Letter 14. During the War of 1812 Jefferson greatly expanded his home-manufacturing equipment at Monticello, and in 1813 had close to a hundred spindles making clothing for his own plantation.

Letter 24. Varina was a plantation near Richmond owned by Thomas Mann Randolph.

Letter 26. "Jefferson" was Thomas Jefferson Randolph, a son of Thomas Mann Randolph.

1. Randolph Jefferson to Thomas Jefferson, July 9, 1807

[Addressed] Mr. Thomas Jefferson
pr son Lewis monticello
To the Care of mr. Dinsmore

Dear Brother

I should of wrote to you on this business before but wished to be certain in seeing whether I could procure the quantity of seed that I agree^d with the nigroes for which was a bushel of Green soard and as much of White Clover they are now delivering that quantity at Eight shillings pr Gallon I think the price high at that but I asure you that it was not in My power to git it cheaper if Convenient be pleased to inclose to Me as Much Money as will pay them of for there seed and send the letter on to warren Where I Can receive it in any short time and you Will Very Much oblige your. —

Most affectionately.—

Rh; Jefferson

July 9th 07

P S

Be so good as to let Mr. Randolph know if he Wants to perchase either of those kinds of seed it Will be in My power to oblige him if he will write me immidiately. —

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph July 9.07 rec^d Aug 8

Monticello Aug. 12.07.

Dear brother

I did not recieve your letter of July 9 till the 8th. inst. and now, by the first post inclose you 20. D. to pay for the clover & green-swerd seed; which goes by post to Warren. the greenswerd seed I wish to have here; but the white clover seed is to go to Bedford. I must therefore get you to make interest with mr. Crouch to have it conveyed to the care of mr. Brown merch^t. of Lynchburg for Burgess Griffin at Poplar Forest. this he can do I expect by his batteaux which go to Lynchburg.

Our sister Marks arrived here last night and we shall be happy to see you also. I salute you affectionately.

Th: Jefferson

Mr. R. Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Aug. 12.07.

3. Randolph Jefferson to Thomas Jefferson Dec. 7, 1809

[Addressed] Mr Thomas Jefferson
pr Squire Monticello

Dr brother

I would Esteem it as a singular favour of you if you Would be so Good as to lend us your Gigg harness to go as fare as charlotte as one of My wifes brothers lays like to dye and she has a great desire to go and see him and they shall be reterned safe back a gane as soon as she gits back Which Will be in seven or Eight days My Wife Joins With me in love to you and family.—

I am Dr brother
yr Most affectionately
Rh: Jefferson
Decemr 7, '09

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Dec. 7.09. rec^d Dec. 7.

Monticello Dec. 8.09.

Dear brother

I send by Squire the Gigg harness, and shall be very happy if after your return, instead of sending it you would avail yourself of it to pay us a visit here with my sister. she promised me a visit in the spring but the distance is too short to require it to be put off to so remote a period. perhaps too you might find an absence from home during winter less inconvenient than after the operations of the farm & garden shall have been begun in the Spring. however we shall be happy to see you both at your own best convenience. in the mean time accept for both the assurances of my affectionate esteem.

Th: Jefferson

Mr. Randolph Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Dec. 8.09

[Addressed] Mr. Thomas Jefferson
By Jerry Monticello

Stoney point June 8 1810

Dear brother

I have this Moment Met with your Waggoner Who tells Me that you are all Well. I have expected for some time to of received a letter from you—but have not received one yet, I expected you Were Gone to Richmond, before this agreeable to What you told Me Which I expected Was the reason of My Not Gitting one from you, I should of bin over before this but have bin very much put to it to git Iron to make me an axiltree to my Gigg. and have not got any yet I understand there is some landed at Capt pattersons Grocery at Warren With in a few days past, and I intend Going up there tomorrow Morning to try and Git some for that perpose, and if I should git any, it Wont be Very long before We Will be over but at this time, it is out of My power to fix on any Certain time. you Will excuse My scribble.—

I am dear brother yr Most affectionately
Rh; Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Stony point. June 8, 10. rec^d June 9.

Monticello June 11.10.

Dear brother

Yours of the 8th. is received. I thought it had been agreed between us that I should give you information only when I should be notified of the time of my attendance in Richmond, and that not writing would be evidence to you of my continuance at home. in fact my journey to Richmond is put off to the Fall. I shall therefore be at home till the middle of July, about which time I shall go to Bedford, and shall hope to see you & my sister here before I set out. my absence on that journey will be of about a month. all here are well and join in wishes & salutations to you both.

Affectionately yours

Th: Jefferson

Mr. Randolph Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. June 11.10.

Monticello Sep. 6.11.

Dear brother

Our worthy sister Carr has at length yielded to the wasting complaint which has for two or three years been gaining upon her: without any increase of pain, or any other than her gradual decay, she expired three days ago, and was yesterday deposited here by the side of the companion who had been taken from her 38. years before. she had the happiness, and it is a great one, of seeing all her children become worthy & respectable members of society & enjoying the esteem of all. present my best respects to my sister and be assured of my constant affection.

Th: Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Sep. 6.11.

Octr 6:11

Dear brother.— —

I Received yours of the twenty six of last month and am extremly sorry to hear of My sisters death and Would of bin over but it was not raly in My power but it is What we may all expect to come to either later or sooner I Got Mr pryor to call and leave this letter for me as he Was Going to albemarle court and recomended it to him to Make Montocello his first days stage I intend coming over some time next Month Which I expect will be towards the last of the month as I shall be very busy in gitting My crop of Wheat down to Richmond and sowing My present crop you will not forget to take care of my puppy if you have not given him a Way to any one I expect by this time he Must be large I have Just Got over a very severe tack of the Gravil I could Not of survived Many ours had I not Got releaf from a physician immidately. My Wife and family presents there respects to you and family I am yrs

affectionately
Rh; Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Oct. 6.11. rec'd Oct. 7

Monticello Jan 14.12.

Dear brother

When I saw you last I mentioned to you that among a stock of family medicines & conveniences which I laid in by the advice of Dr. Wistar when I left Philadelphia he had put up, I thought, some bougies of better form than common. on searching I have found one of them, which I now send you. Doct^r. Walker will be the best judge of it's merit. should you have a return of your complaint I hope you will by all means follow his judicious advice of using the lunar caustic, as the only means of giving permanent relief, and of ensuring a continuance of life. in his hands the operation will be safe, & altho' the pain will be great, yet we should make up our minds to the sufferings we are doomed to meet, and meet them with firmness and patience.

On my arrival here I found a letter announcing the death of Mr. Marks. I sent for our sister as soon as she could leave that neighborhood, & she is now here; but in very low health indeed, & scarcely able to walk about the house.

I had an opportunity yesterday of sending your watch to Richmond. present my respects to my sister

Yours affectionately

Th: Jefferson

R. Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. Jan. 14.12.

woodlawn Feby 8:12

Dear brother.—

I Received yours of the 6 instant, and am extreemly oblige to you for the things you Were so kind as to send Me. Which came to hand safe, I have not had a tetch of My complaint sence I saw you, and have greatly mended in flesh. I have rode down to snowden on horse back and I found it not disagree a tall with Me, tho I rode Very slow, and once I went down in the gigg all appeard to a gree exceedingly well with me so far. as soon as the roads gits in good order we Will come over I expect it will be the last of next Month or the first of april, I am Very sorry to hear of My sister Marks low state of health, but hope she Will recover after a little time after the weather Gits a little Warmer, if My health should continue to keep as it is I will endeavour to come over next Month. if your shepards bitch has any More puppys I must Git the favour of you to save Me one dog puppy my Wife and family Joins in love and Respect to all of you

I am your Most affectionatly.—

Rh; Jefferson

N B if you sent my watch to Fast Bender it is More then probable that she went to the Flames with the rest of the Watches in his shop as his shop Were burnt about the eighttenths of Jany.— — —

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. Woodlawn. Feb. 8. rec^d Mar. 2.
1812

[Address] Mr: Thomas: Jefferson
politeness Mr R: Bell
Monticello

Dear brother

I have bin informd by Mr R: patteson who has Just got up from Richmond a day or two past that My Watch is safe and in the possession of Mr Fass Bender will you be so good as to send down for her by some person who will be going down shortly that can be depended on to bring her up safe as I expect we shall be over early in May Which time the roads Will be in good order to travil and as soon as they are I shall set of over I have one request to ask of you and that is if your bitch has any more puppys by her at this time I would thank you to save Me a dog if you have Not ingaged them to any other person sence you Went from heare I have recovered my health in a great Measure to What I was but at times feel the simtoms but after a day or two it leavs Me I have not put a drop of any kind of spirits in My Mouth sence I saw you Neither have I seen Doctor Walker sence I received your letter My Wife Joins Me in love and Respect to you and family I am Dear brother

your most affectionatily.—

Rh: Jefferson

april 13: 1812

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph Apr. 13.12. rec'd Apr. 25.

[Address] Thomas Jefferson eqr.

pr Squire

Monticello

Dear Brother

I have sent Squire over to you for the garden seeds you were so kind as to promise us. what ever you can best spare we are now living at home and would be happy to see you and familey When ever convenient we are at this time at woodlawn on account of Mrs. pryers illness but she is much Mendid on account of that we shall leave this in a day or two My Wife Joins me in love to you and family. I am Dear brother

P S you Will be please to
write to me by Squire

yr Most affectionately.—

Rh; Jefferson

Feby 24: 1813

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph Feb. 24.13. rec^d Mar. 1.

Mar. 2.13.

Dear brother

Having been from home the last fall during most of the season for saving seeds, I find on examination that my gardener has made a very scanty provision. of that however I send enough to put you in stock: to wit Early Frame peas. Ledman's peas. long haricots. red haricots. grey snaps Lima beans. carrots. parsneps. salsaflia. spinach. Sprout kale. tomatas I have sent you none of the following because all your neighbors can furnish them, & my own stock is short. towit Lettuce radish. cucumbers. squashes. cabbages. turneps. mrs. Randolph makes up some flower seeds for my sister I do not expect to go to Bedford till late in April. if by that time I learn that the road from mr. Hudson's to Scott's ferry is passable I will certainly call on you. I meant to have done it as I returned in November last, but learned that the boat at that ferry was gone, & that I would not be able to cross there. all here are well and salute my sister & yourself, disappointed that you did not come for the seeds. Adieu

Yours affectionately

Th: Jefferson

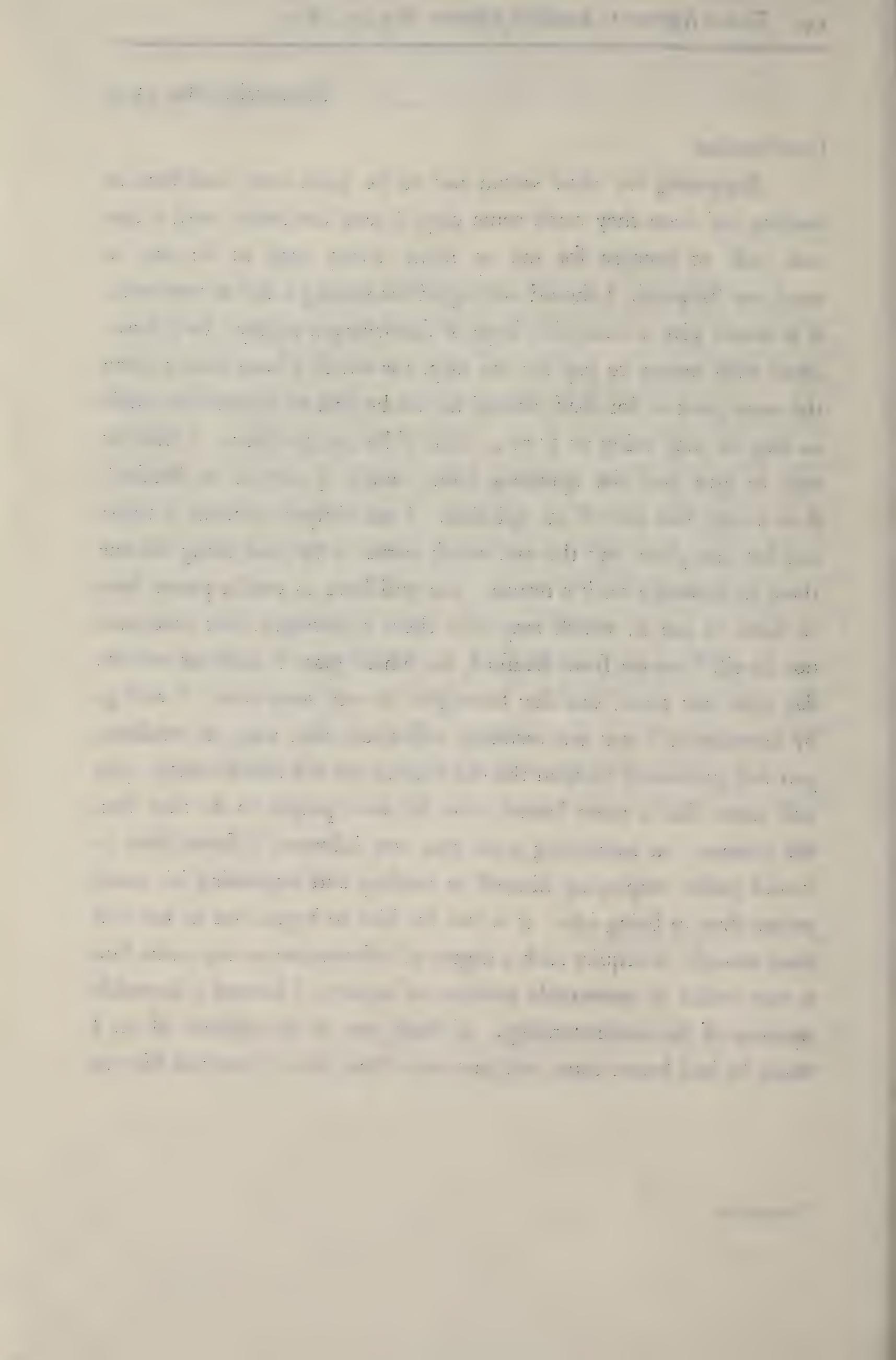
Cap^t. Randolph Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. Mar. 2.13.

Monticello May 25.13

Dear brother

Supposing the shad season not to be quite over, and that in hauling for them they catch some carp, I send the bearer with a cart and cask to procure for me as many living carp as he can to stock my fishpond. I should not regard his staying a day or two extra, if it would give a reasonable hope of furnishing a supply. he is furnished with money to pay for the carp, for which I have always given the same price as for shad, should he not be able to lay out the whole in carp he may bring us 3. or 4. shad if he can get them. I shall be able to give you the spinning Jenny which I carried to Bedford. it is a very fine one of 12. spindles. I am obliged to make a larger one for that place, and the cart which carries it up shall bring the one there to Snowden on it's return. you will have to send a person here to learn to use it, which may take them a fortnight. but that need not be till I return from Bedford, for which place I shall set out the day after our court, this day fortnight, or very soon after. I will go by Snowden if I can; but certainly will return that way, on condition you will previously re-open the old road to the old smith's shop. you will never find a more leisure time for your people to do that than the present. in conversing with your son Lilburne, I found that he would prefer employing himself in reading and improving his mind rather than in being idle. it is late for him to begin, but he has still time enough, to acquire such a degree of information as may make him a very useful & respectable member of society. I formed a favorable opinion of his understanding. if both you & he approve of it, I think he had better come and pass some time here. I can put him on



a course of useful reading adapted to his age. this would be of geography, history, agriculture, & natural philosophy: as soon as you and he can make up your minds, he had better come without delay, as he has not a day to lose. he can pursue his reading as well while I am absent in Bedford, as when here.

Reflecting on the manner of managing your very valuable farm, I thought I would suggest the following which appears to me the best, & of which you will consider. to form your lowgrounds into two divisions, one of them to be in wheat, and the other to be half corn & half red clover, shifting them every year. then to form your highlands into three divisions, one to be in wheat & the other two in red clover, shifting them from year to year. in this way your low ground fields would be in corn but once in 4. years, in wheat every other year, and in clover every fourth year: and your highland in wheat once in every three years, and in clover two years in every three. they would improve wonderfully fast in this way, and increase your produce of wheat & corn every year. if it should be found that the low grounds should in this way become too rich for wheat, instead of putting them every fourth year into clover, you might put them that year into oats. your annual crop would then be half your low grounds in wheat, a fourth in corn, and a fourth in oats or clover: and one third of your highland in wheat, and two thirds in clover; and so on for ever, and for ever improving. I suggest this for your consideration. present me affectionately to my sister, and be assured yourself of my constant & brotherly attachment.

Th: Jefferson

Randolph Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. May 25.13.

May the 26: 1813

Dear Brother

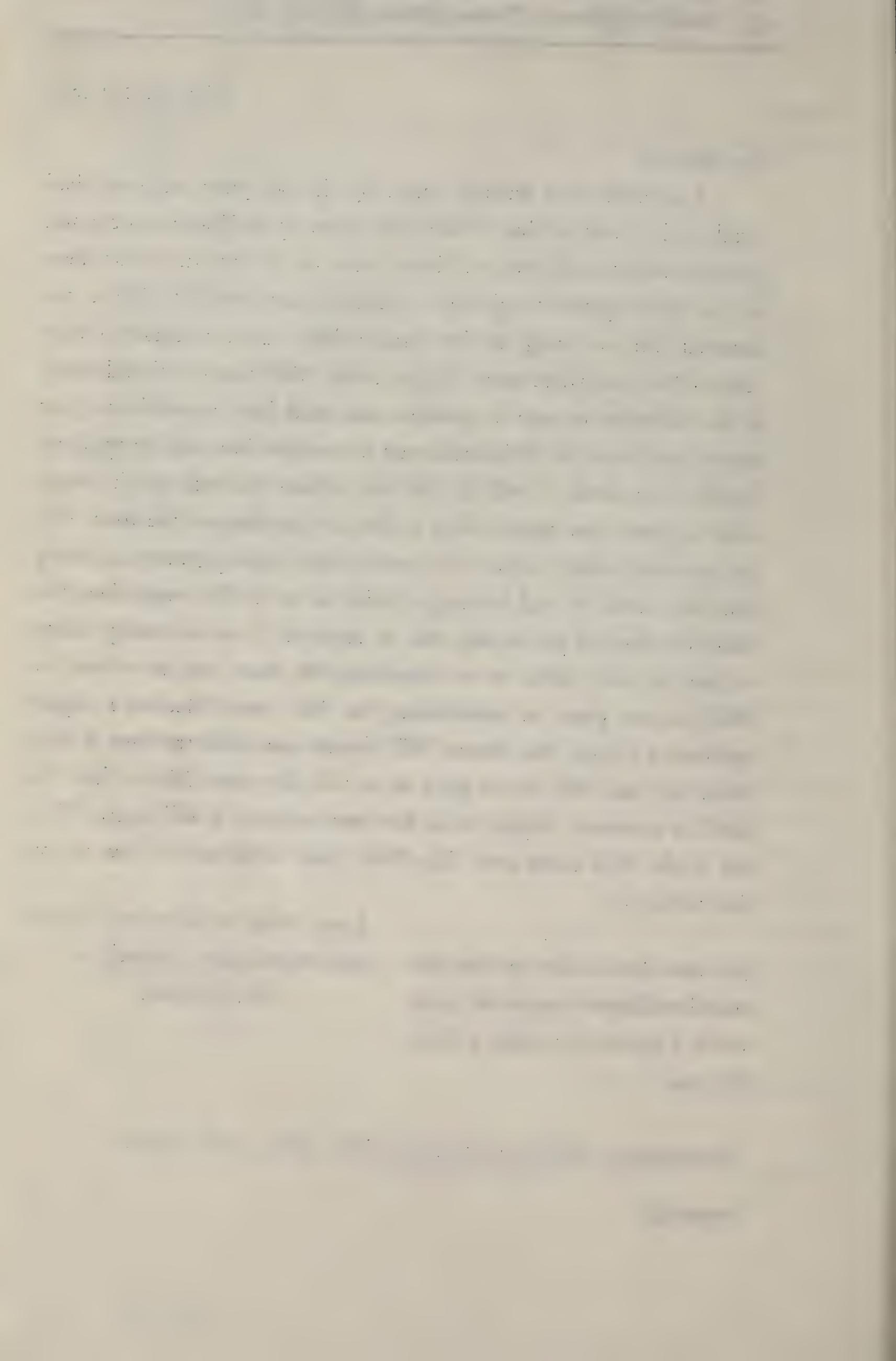
I received your friendly letter by the boy they catch no shad a tall at this time so that I have sent James up to Warren to try and procure some carp for you and have wrote to Mr Brown a bout them if it is in his power to git any to fernish your boy With What you derected him to bring in the barril a live I have understood they cetch a Number there every Night in the Mill race I will endeavour to fix Lilburne as soon as possible and send him a greable to your request and hope he Will endeavour to improve him self by applying closely to his book I will do My best to have the rode put in better order a gainst you come a long as fare as the shop on the rode We are extreemly oblige to you in respect to the spining ginney as letting your boy come by and leaveing it with us as it Was more then We could of asked of you at any rate or expected I am extreemly oblige to you for your advice as to Managing My farm but am a fraid it Will be two great an undertakeng for Me your Method I highly approve of I hope Mr Brown Will fernish you with the carp if they cetch any you Will be so good as to tell My sister Marks that We shall be extreemly happy to see her hear and that I will retern With her if she Will come over My Wife Joins With me in love to you and family.—

p s dont be in dred of the old
rode I will have that put in good
order a gainst you come a long
for you. — —

I am With the Warmest Esteem
and regard your cinearly.—

Rh; Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. May 26.13. rec'd. May 26.



Monticello June 20.13.

Dear brother

The unexpected difficulties of bringing water to my saw mill & threshing machine, & the necessity of doing it before harvest, have obliged me to put off my visit to Bedford till after harvest. the spinning Jenny for Bedford is now ready but will not be sent until I go. while it is here it offers a good opportunity for your spinner to learn upon it. after it is gone there will be no idle machine for a learner to practise on. I send the bearer therefore to inform you of this, that you may not lose the opportunity of getting the person taught whom you intend to employ in that way. I should think she had better come immediately, as it will require a month or more to become perfect in roving and spinning. by the time she is taught, the machine will go off to Bedford, & the cart which carries it will return by Snowden & leave the 12. spindle machine there, on which she may go to work immediately. this will be early in August. I do not know whether I can call on you as I go. I will if I can, but certainly will as I return. is your road cleared out?

My sister desired that when I should send her seeds of any kind I would give her directions how to plant & cultivate them. knowing that there was an excellent gardening book published at Washington, I wrote for one for her, which I now inclose. she will there see what is to be done with every kind of plant every month in the year. I have written an index at the end that she may find any particular article more readily: and not to embarrass her with such an immense number of articles which are not wanting in common gardens, I have added a paper with a list of those I tend in my garden, & the times when I plant them. the season being over for planting every thing but the Gerkin, I send her a few seeds of them. she will not find the term Gerkin in the book. it is that by which we distinguish the very small pickling cucumber. affectionate salutations to you both.

Th: Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. June 20.13.

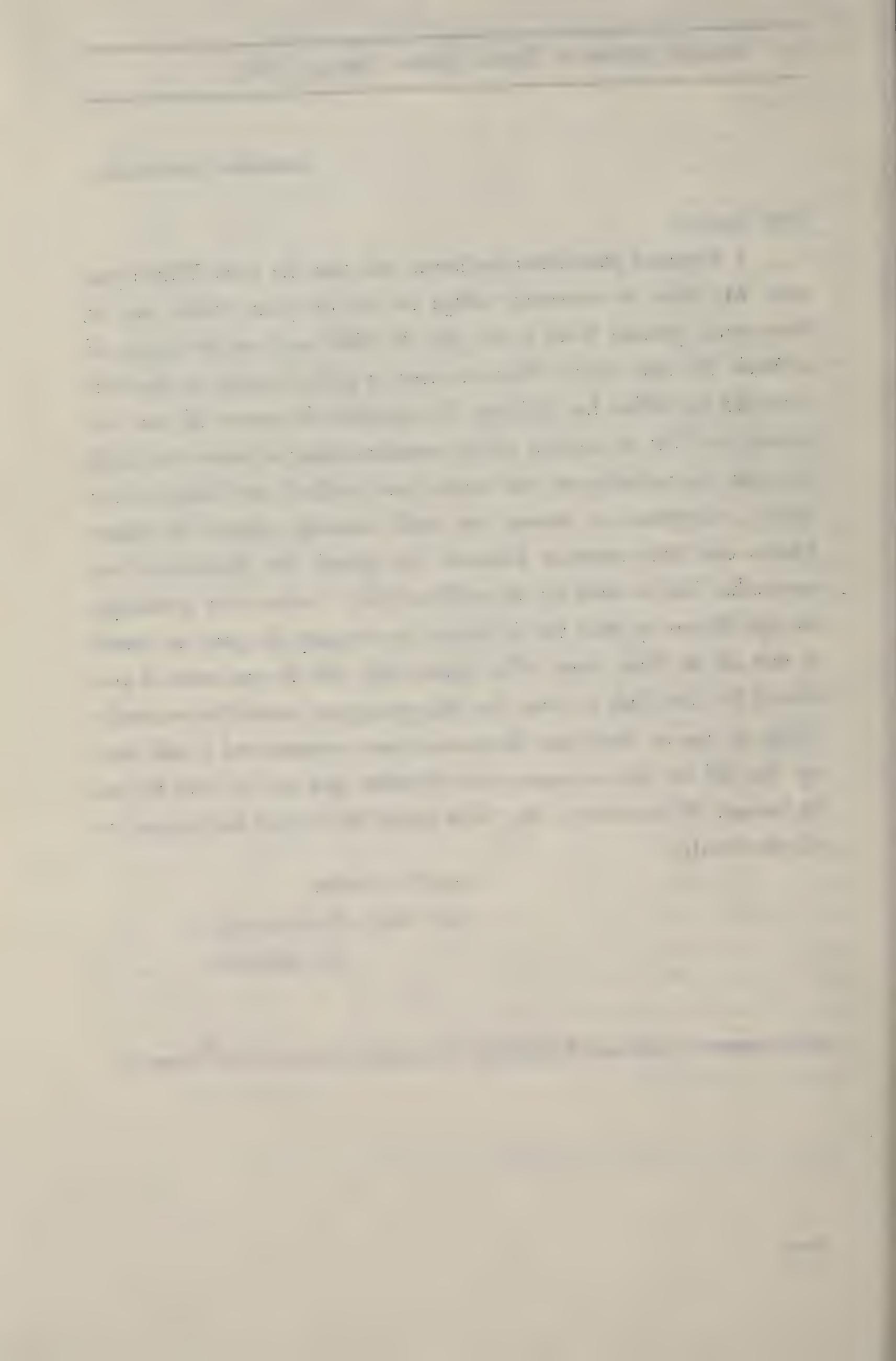
Snowden June 21:1813

Dear Brother.

I Received your letter by James and also the book Which you sent: My Wife is extreemly oblige to you for your present and is, Very much pleased With it the girl We Will send on the course of a Week We have Not a Woman except a girl of twelve or fourteen years old but What has children We expected the reason of your not coming on Was on account of the weathers being so worm but shall look for you certainly on your retern from bedford my Wife is Very Much indesposed at present we shall certainly expect My sister Marks over this summer Lilbourn has goind the Volunteers but expect he Will be over by the midle of July I wrote very pressingly to capt Brown by your boy in respect to the carp for you but found it was all in Vane from What James tells Me he got none if you should Not conclude to come this Way going up I would be extreemly oblige to you to Mark out the ram to your overseer and I will send up this fall for him as soon as the Weather gits cool so that he can be brought With safety. My Wife goins Me in love and respect to all the family.

I am Dr brother
your Most affectionately.—
Rh: Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. Snowden June 21.13. rec'd June 21



18. Randolph Jefferson to Thomas Jefferson, July 11, 1813

July 11 1813

Dear brother

I have sent the girl by Squire and hope she Will answer to learn and should of sent her before but we have bin so very busy about my Wheat that I could Not spare a hand out of the field to bring her & Would be Very Much oblige to you to put her under one of the grone hands to keep her in good order I suppose We May send for her in three or four Weeks I would be glad you Would let us know Whether you can come by We are all Well heare My Wife Joins Me in love to the family

I am Dr brother

your Most affectionately . . . —

Rh Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Snowden July 11.13 rec^d July 11.

Monticello July 12.13.

Dear brother

Your's is received by Squire, and the girl begins this morning the first necessary branch, which is roving, or spinning into candle-wick to prepare it for the spinning Jenny. This will take her some days, more or less, according to her aptness, and then she will commence on the Jenny. as she appears rather young, it will probably take her a month or 6. weeks to learn well enough to be relied on for carrying it on herself where she can have no further instruction. however I will by any opportunity which occurs let you know her progress and when you may send for her. it will be near a month before I shall be able to set out for Bedford, and uncertain whether I can go by Snowden or not; but if I do not, I will certainly return by there, and the machine will go to you at the same time; about which time I imagine it will be best that your girle should meet it there, continuing to spin here till then, that she may be more perfect. with affectionate salutations to my sister and yourself accept my adieux.

Th: Jefferson

Randolph Jefferson esq.

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. July 12.13.

august 8th: 1813

Dear brother

I have sent Squire over to see Whether I could borrow forty dollars of you as I am compelled to have as Much at Court if it is possible to borrow as Much of you Which shall certainly be replaced a gane in three weaks Which Will be a bout the time I shall dispose of My crop of Wheat and will take extreemly kind of you if it is in your power to help Me at this time Which I shall feel My self under Many obligations to you for the loan of be pleased to discharge Squire as soon as possible and Would be glad to heare how Fanny comes on My Wife goins Me in love to you & family.—

I am your affectionately

yours.—

Rh Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Snowden. Aug. 8.13 rec^d Aug. 7.

Monticello Aug. 8.13.

Dear brother

Your letter of yesterday found me unprovided with the sum you desired; but I have been able to borrow it among our merchants who are not much better off than others, all business being at a stand. we are experiencing the most calamitous year known since 1755. the ground has been wet but once since the 14th. of April. my wheat yielded but a third of an ordinary crop, about treble the seed. of 230. acres of corn, about 15. acres may make 2. or 3. barrels to the acre; and about 215. acres will not produce a single ear; not half of it will tossil, a great deal not 2. feet high. we usually make about 7. or 800. barrels; we shall certainly not make above 30. I shall be obliged to drive all my stock to Bedford to be wintered, and to buy 400. barrels of corn for bread for my people.

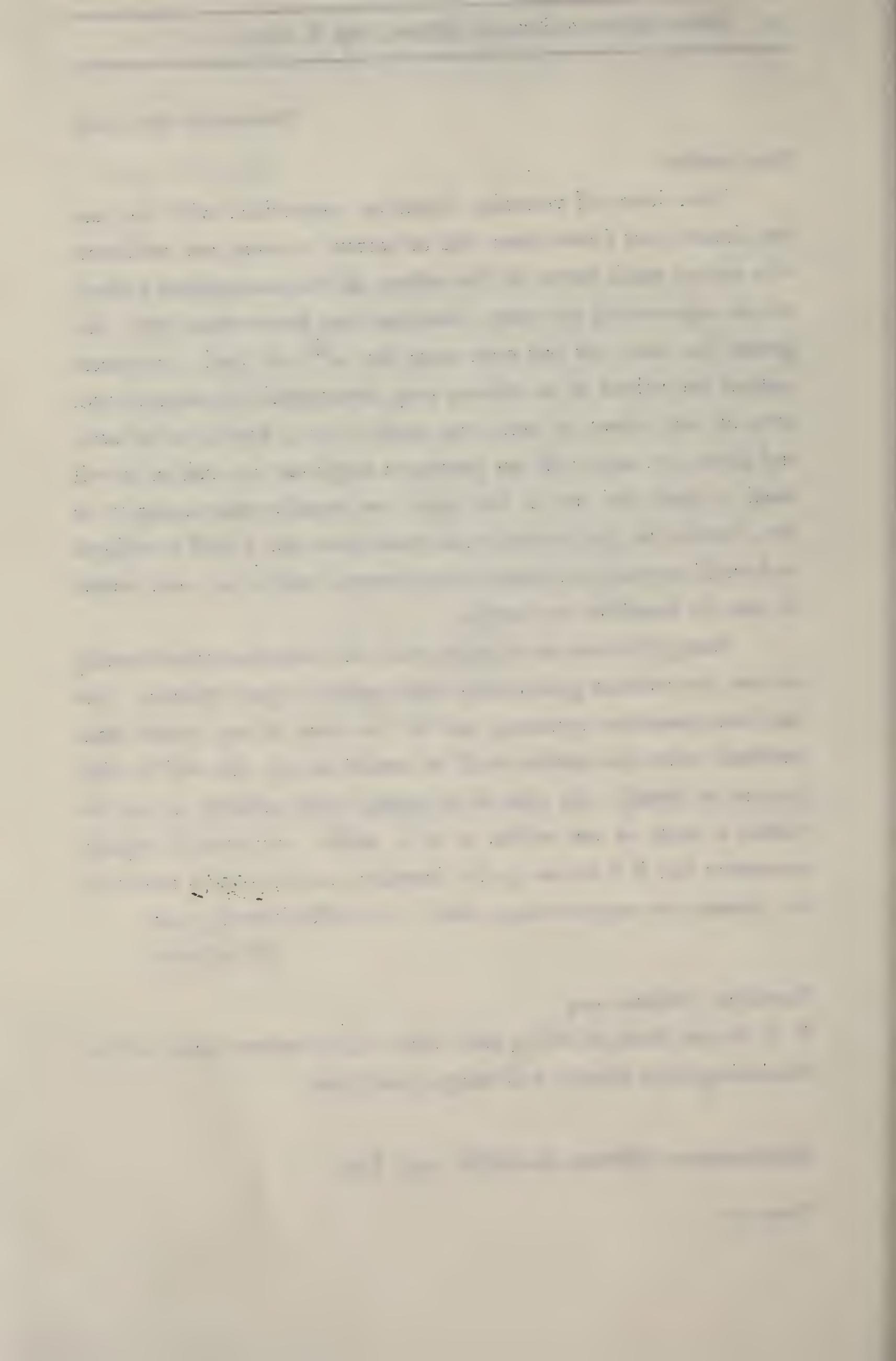
Your girl comes on tolerably well. she was some time learning to rove, for without good roving there cannot be good spinning. she has been sometime spinning, and by the time of my return from Bedford, when the machine will be carried to you, she will be able to spin by herself. the time of my going is yet unfixed. it may be within a week, or not within 2. or 3. weeks. my route is equally uncertain; but if I do not go by Snowden I will certainly return by it. present my respects to my sister. ever affectionately yours

Th: Jefferson

Randolph Jefferson esq.

P. S. do not think of selling your wheat till the winter drives off the blockading ships when it will bring a good price.

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Aug. 8.13.



Poplar Forest Sep. 8.13.

Dear brother

The cart sets out this morning with your spinning Jenny in perfect order, and will deliver it I hope safe from accident. according to present appearances I may leave this on Saturday morning, and if in time to get to Noah Flood's I may be with you to dinner on Sunday, but if I get only to Henry Flood's I shall dine at Gibson's & be with you on Sunday evening; and it is yet possible I may be detained here till Sunday. my best affections to my sister & yourself.

Th: Jefferson

Randolph Jefferson esq.

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. Sep. 8. 13.

2034521

Dear Brother

I would be greatly oblige to you if Mr. Randolph has reternd home from Richmond if you Will be so good as to ask him to send old Stephen over With My Watch as I am at the greatest loss in the World for the Want of her and at the same time Would take it a great favour of you to send the bitch by him that you Were so good as to give Me When I was over as I have a great desire to see her I have Waited With all the patience I am Master of expecting Stephen over for three weaks and he has Not come yet and I suppose it is on account of Mr. Randolphs Not reteturning home from Richmond yet if Mr. Randolph has not reternd Stephen May Wait and as soon as he gits back you Will be pleased to send Stephen over With My Watch & bitch as it is out of My power to leave home at this time We are all Well heare at present My Wife Joins Me in love to you and family

I am your Most affectionately

Rh: Jefferson

Decemr 29:14

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph Dec. 29.14 rec^d Dec. 31.

Snowden February 13:1815

Dear brother.—

I have concluded to send over Squire, after the bitch that you was so good to give me, when I was over as I should be extreemly hapy to git her, if she has not pupt, or if she has and he can Make out to bring her and some of the pupies. I can send over for the rest at Esther, without Mr Randolph will let old Stephen come over and bring the rest for Me. if the bitch has no more then too Squire can bring them him self, I have Waited expecting to see stephen every day, but the reason I suppose his not coming is that Mr Randolph has not reternd yet from below. as for My Watch I have bin without her so long that I am intirely Weand from her, however if Mr. Randolph should of reternd and brought her, I should be extreemly happy once More to receive her. agane. I would be extreemly oblige to you for a few science, of your good fruit, of apple & cherry. if it should not be too late to moove them Now, or any other fruit that you Would oblige Me With, that you have to spare also a few cabbage seed and ice lettuce seed. if it is but one half spoon full provided you have as Many to spare Without disfernishing yourself. I expect I shall be summonsed over to March court on account of Randolph & Craven patons sute in albemarle court. I am at the greatest loss immagenable for the Want of My Watch. if Mr Randolph has not reternd yet I shall be oblige to send down to Verina but I am still in hopes there Will Not be any occasion to do that, as he Must certainly have reternd long before this time. My Wife Joins Me in love and respect to you and family. I am your most affectionately. — — —

Rh: Jefferson

do pray Sir give Squire such derections intrespect to the bitch as you think Most Necessary. and you Will Very Much oblige

your Most affectionately. Rh: Jefferson

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Snowden Feb. 15.15. recd. Feb. 15.
[Note in T. J.'s hand:] apples, cherries, cabbage, ice lettuce.

Monticello Feb. 16. 15

Dear brother

After several disappointments in getting your watch from Richmond, I received her a week ago. I sent for Stephen, who came to me and pretended to be sick. finding he did not mean to go to Snowden I had concluded to send her to you in a day or two, when Squire arrived. she appears to have gone well since I have had her, except a little too fast. with respect to Stephen mr-Randolph got rid of him long ago. I am told he stays now at North Milton or somewhere there. he talks of going down the country to live. I send you some green curled Savoy cabbage seed. I have no ice lettuce, but send you what I think better the white loaf lettuce. the ice lettuce does not do well in a dry season. I send you also some sprout kale, the finest winter vegetable we have. sow it and plant it as cabbage, but let it stand out all winter. it will give you sprouts from the first of December to April. the bitch I had given you was caught in the very act of eating a sheep which she had killed. she was immediately hung, and as we had a fine litter at the same time from another bitch, I preserved one of them for you, which Squire is now gone for and will carry over to you.—I have for some years so entirely neglected my fruit trees that I have nothing in my nursery but refuse stuff, unknown & of no value.—there is a rumor here of peace; but that we shall have peace in the spring I have little doubt. I hold up my flour therefore till May. present my compliments to my sister and be assured of my sincere affections.

Th: Jefferson

mr Randolph Jefferson.

Feb. 17. the news of peace is confirmed since yesterday so that I have little doubt of it. wheat and tob^o. will be immediately at a good price. corn which was at 27/at Richmond will tumble down instantly, because their supplies which are always from the great corn country of Rappahanoc will come round by water now freely & immediately.

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. Feb. 16.15



April 2:15

Dear brother

My sister Marks arrived heare very safe on friday evening, but Was verry Much fatigued after her Jorney. I have got pritty Well a gane, but Extreemly Week at this time, Scarce able to Walk. I am exceedingly oblige to you for the things you sent Me, I have Just sold to charles S: Scott, 70 acres of My low grounds. at a hundred dollers pr acre, for Which he is to Make the first payment a bout the twelth of this Month, Which Will take Me out of debt With every Man that I am involved With and which Will enable me to keep all My Slaves as long as I live. the Next payment he is to Make me this time twelve Months. I will try and take a ride over some time this summer if my health will permit. the river is so high that they cant put in the sane to fish, but as soon as the river gits down so as they ketch any We will immidiately send you over a parcel by Squire. My Wife Joins Me in love and affection to you and family. — — I am you Most affectionately

Rh; Jefferson

p s Jefferson & young Wilson Nicholas took a ride to see me on saterday but made no stay of account With us for the first time.—

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Snowden Apr. 2.15 rec^d. Apr. 3.

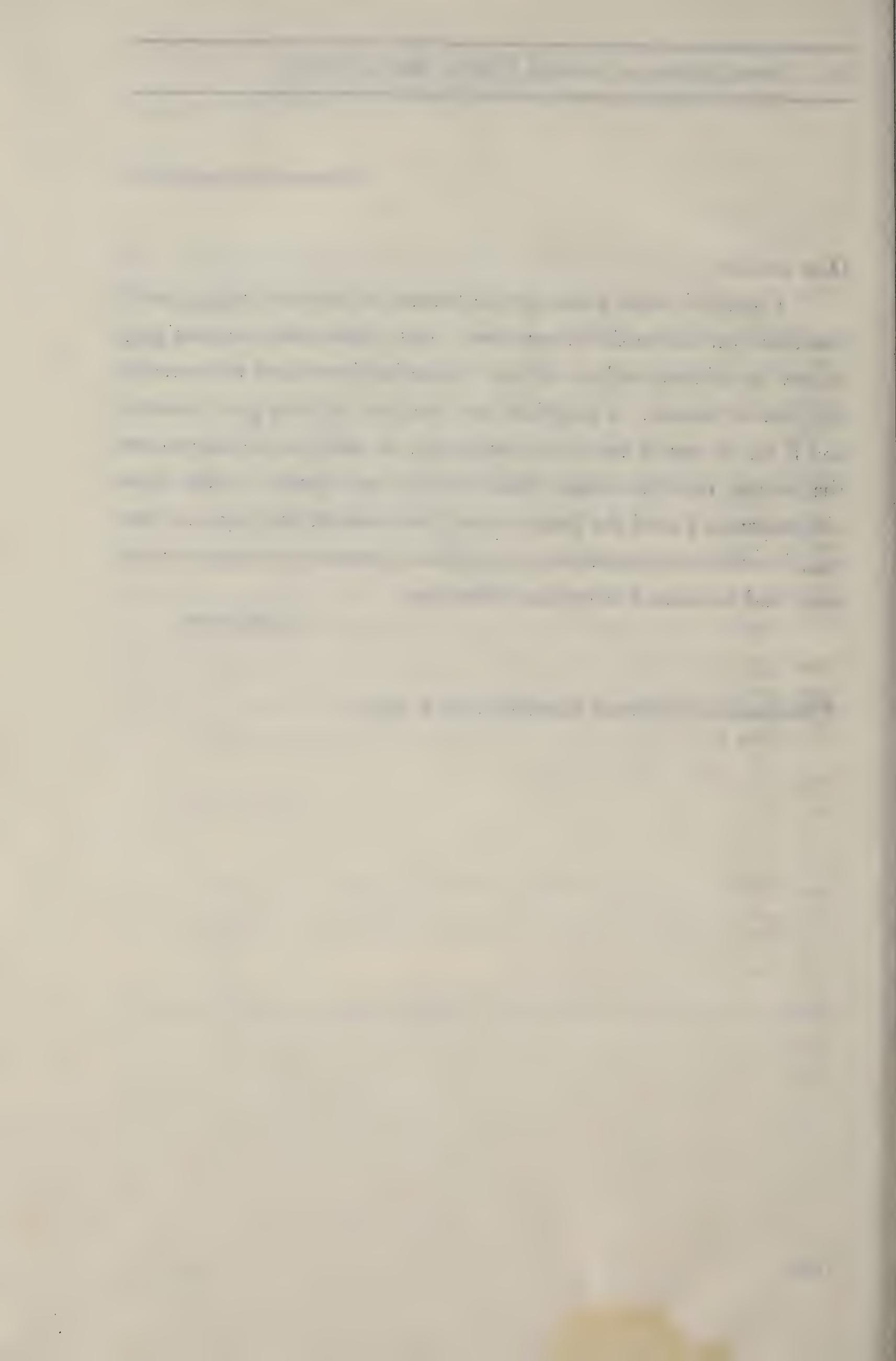
Monticello June 23.15.

Dear brother

I lent you some years ago the harness of our family gig, until you could get one made for your own. Mrs. Marks tells me your gig is now demolished and out of use. mine has been used with one of our chariot harness. a neighbor asks the loan of it to go a journey, and if we let one of our set of harness go, we shall not be able to use the carriage until his return which will be very distant. under these circumstances I send the bearer to ask the return of the harness I lent you, in order to accomodate my neighbor. present my respects to my sister and be assured of my best affections.

Th: Jefferson

(Endorsement) Jefferson Randolph. June 23.15



Dear brother

I Received yours by the boy the harness in Which you were kind enough to lend us Was intirely Worn out so that they did not scarce las us over to prince Edward and back. Mr patteson borrowed our gigg to go over to the springs and had the harness With the gigg and they lasted him as far as stanton on his Way to the springs and there he left them and baught a New set in Which he gave to us and as our gigg is demolished the harness is of No service to us Now and have sent them over by your boy Which you are Very Welcom too your boy informs us of pore Mrs Carrs death Which I am extreemly sorry to heare of We are Very busy at this time in our harvest Which I expect Will be several days before We shall be able to finish. My Wife Joins Me in love and respect to you and family.—I remain your Most affectionately.—

Rh: Jefferson

June 23:15

[Endorsement] Jefferson Randolph. Snowden. June 23.15 rec^d June 25.

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